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LARYNGOSCOPY AND NASAL ENDOSCOPY

It may be necessary for your ENT doctor to examine the inside of the nasal passage or throat using a small fiberoptic scope. This helps us to correctly diagnose and treat a variety of conditions affecting these areas. Inspection of the nasal cavity is called NASAL ENDOSCOPY. Inspection of the throat is called LARYNGOSCOPY.

How is the procedure performed?

NASAL ENDOSCOPY:

The nasal cavity is sprayed with topical anesthetic and decongestant. After several minutes, the doctor will place a small fiberoptic scope inside the nose. The scope is passed about 2 inches inside the nose to inspect one or both sides. Sometimes a biopsy may be performed or removal of polyps or inflamed tissue. It is common to perform nasal endoscopy about one week after sinus surgery in order to remove retained mucus crusts to keep the sinuses open during the initial healing period. The procedure is not painful and typically feels like a tickling sensation or mild pressure/burning sensation. The procedure takes less than 1 minute.

LARYNGOSCOPY:

This procedure can be performed with a flexible scope through the nose or with a rigid scope in the mouth. The scope is passed in order to visualize the lower throat, including the larynx. The vocal cords are inspected to identify causes of hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, throat pain, or other throat symptoms. Sometimes a strobe light is utilized to inspect the wave-like motion of the vocal cords. The procedure is not painful but sometimes results in a mild coughing or gagging sensation. The procedure takes less than 1 minute.